

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 05121 280551Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 SSC-01 IO-14 CPR-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 EB-08
/108 W

-----020345 280555Z /17

R 280500Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9127
INFO USUN NEW YORK 761

UNCLAS COLOMBO 5121

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, CE, UNGA

SUBJ: STATEMENT OF SRI LANKA'S FOREIGN POLICY BY B.J. FER-
NANDO, PROBABLE NEW PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UN

REF: COLOMBO 4954

1. ALTHOUGH STILL NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, B.J. FERNANDO
WILL MOST PROBABLY BE SRI LANKA'S PERMREP TO THE UN (REFTEL).
FERNANDO, IN A RECENT PRESSINTERVIEW, SAID HE WAS PROBABLY
CHOSEN FOR THE UN POSITION OVER OTHERS MORE SENIOR AND DIS-
TINGUISHED BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT PRIME MINISTER JAYA-
WARDENE IS STRIVING FOR. HAVING WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE PM,
HE CLAIMS TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT THE PM'S PRINCIPLES. HE
EXPECTS TO TAKE UP HIS UN POST IN LATE FEBRUARY.

2. STATEMENT OF SRI LANKA'S FOREIGN POLICY.
IN PRESS INTERVIEW, HE GAVE WHAT IS PERHAPS CLEAREST STATE-
MENT THUS FAR OF THE UNP GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY. FOREIGN
POLICY IS AN EXTENSION OF DOMESTIC POLICY. ECONOMIC RECOVERY
IS IMPERATIVE AND FOREIGN POLICY MUST HELP TO ACHIEVE THIS.

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3. FERNANDO LABELS THE PM AS A PROGMATIST, ONE WHO RESPECTS
THE IDEAL BUT PURSUES THE ATTAINABLE. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE
ABSTRACT IS NOT WHAT COUNTS. IMAGE IS NOT IMPORTANT. WHAT
IS IMPORTANT IS TO GET THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FOR THE COUNTRY IN
ORDER TO HAVE A QUICK ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

4. NON-ALIGNED POLICY

THE PM, ACCORDING TO FERNANDO, WANTS STRICT NON-ALIGNMENT, NOT THE SORT THAT VEERS FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER. EACH SITUATION WILL BE JUDGED ON ITS MERITS AND ACTED ON ACCORDINGLY. FERNANDO INDICATED THAT SRI LANKA'S POLICY IN THE NON-ALIGNED WILL ALSO BE DIRECTED AT FURTHERING SRI LANKA'S ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT.

5. FERNANDO PERSONALITY

PRESS ARTICLE DESCRIBES FERNANDO AS ONE WHO OBVIOUSLY PREFERS TO SERVE HIS LEADER RATHER THAN CUT A FIGURE FOR HIMSELF AT THE UN. HE WILL NO DOUBT ACT TO REALIZE AND SPELL OUT THE POLICIES THAT WILL HELP HIS COUNTRY ACHIEVE ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND NATIONAL DIGNITY, BUT WITHOUT DAZZLING HIS COLLEAGUES AT THE UN WITH HISTORICALS.

WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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